

Smith's Store
U.S. Route 2
Waterbury
Washington County
Vermont

HABS No. VT-104

HABS
VT
12-WABU,
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDING SURVEY
MID-ATLANTIC REGION, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19106

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

SMITH'S STORE

HABS No. VT-104

Location: U.S. Route 2, Waterbury, Washington County, Vermont
USGS Middlesex Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator
Coordinates 18.679410.4910300

Significance: This vernacular, early 20th Century structure serves as a visual focal point to the residential neighborhood that lines U.S. Route 2 west of the store. Its significance is due to its highly visible location in the district and its historical role as an integral component of the neighborhood. Historically, general stores like Smith's Store not only were the distribution center for merchandise, but also served as "post office, bank, court of law, barber shop, proving ground, and community center all rolled into one." Smith's Store, again like most general stores, served as a link between farmers.

Description: Smith's Store is located on U.S. Route 2 where the road makes a sharp curve to cross the Winooski River. The two-story, wood frame, gable front store is in the unique shape of a trapezoid. The store front contains two large, plate glass picture windows that flank a central entrance. The plate glass windows are protected by an open, hipped-roof porch supported by metal pipes. A flat roofed one-story wing, flush with the front facade, extends to the south. The wing is dominated by two picture windows. The second story of the front facade is marked by two sets of paned, one on one windows, symmetrically placed. Elsewhere the one on one windows are placed randomly.

History: Deed research indicates that the structure was built in 1912, post dating the 1909 Sanborn Insurance Map. The building is a classic example of a Vermont general merchandise store with the store comprising the first floor and the living quarters on the second floor. The building first appears in the 1919 Sanborn Insurance Map. In 1920, Leslie H. and Winnie H. Smith acquired the store. In November, 1927, a major flood inundated the State of Vermont. Among the structural casualties within Waterbury, Smith's Store was wrenched from its foundation and carried down Main Street for a hundred feet. Damage to a wing extending to the south of the store was so extensive that the wing was removed prior to moving the building back to its pre-flood location in early 1928. All but the aforementioned wing was rehabilitated. In 1942, an addition to the first floor (the trapezoid shaped wing shown on page 5 of this document) was made.

Until May, 1990, the Smiths and their descendents (i.e. Hazel Smith Hanley) had retained continuous ownership of the store for 70 years. In May, 1990, the State of Vermont acquired the building.

Sources:

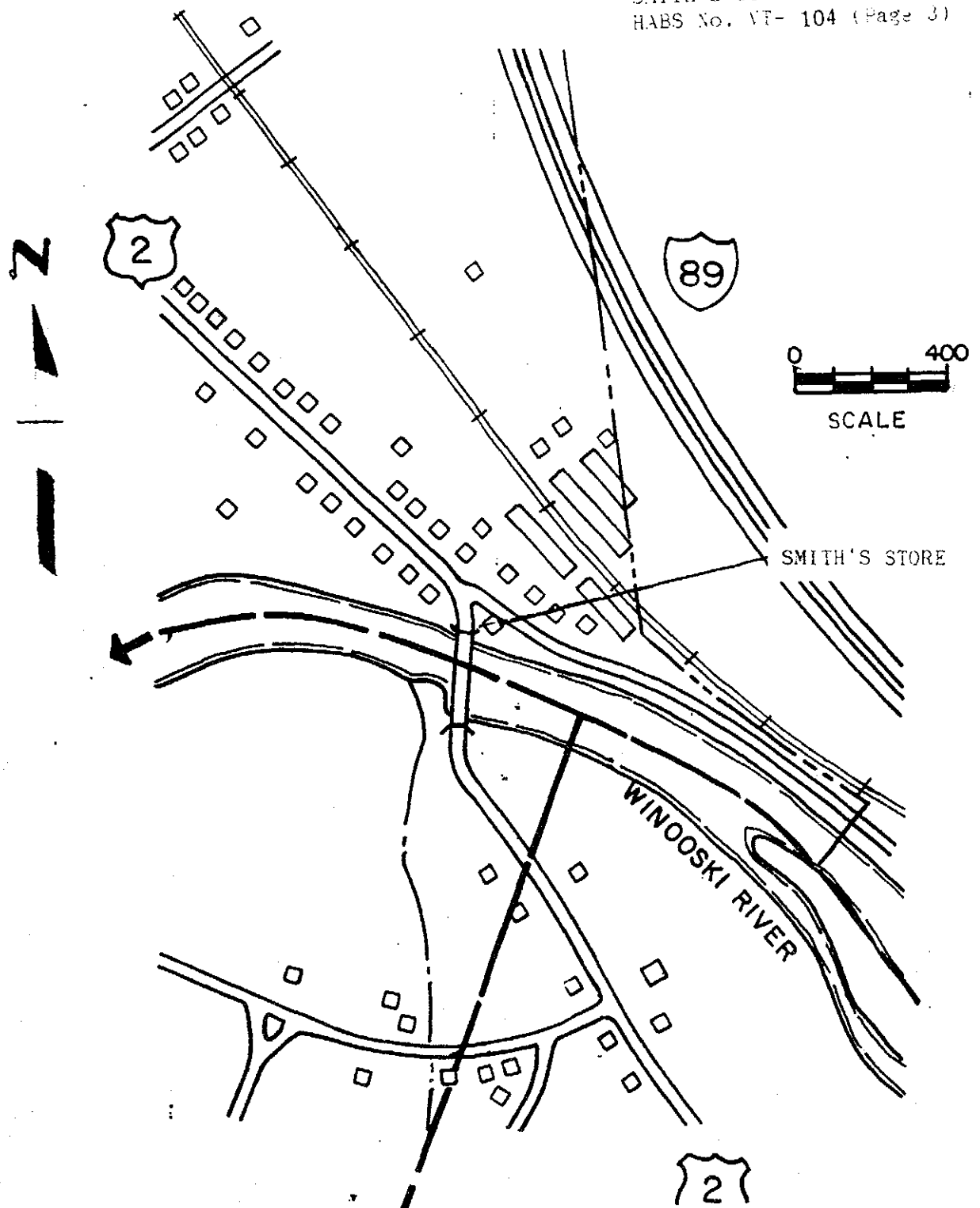
1. The General Store in Vermont - An Oral History, by Jane C. Beck, The Vermont Folklife Center, Middlebury, VT, 1988.
2. "Smith's Store, Route 2, Waterbury, Vermont" prepared by Gina Campoli, Vermont Division for Historic Preservation, 1986.
3. Abstract of Title, Property Administration Division, Agency of Transportation, 1987.
4. Phase 1A Archeological Reconnaissance Survey, Waterbury-Duxbury-Moretown BRF 013-4(19), Washington County, Vermont, prepared by Dr. Peter A. Thomas, University of Vermont, 1989.
5. History of Waterbury, VT 1763-1915, Edited and Compiled by Theodore Graham Lewis, Published by Henry C. Whitehall, 1916.
6. When the Water Came to Waterbury, Edited by Lloyd E. Squier, The Record Print, Waterbury, VT, 1920.

Historical

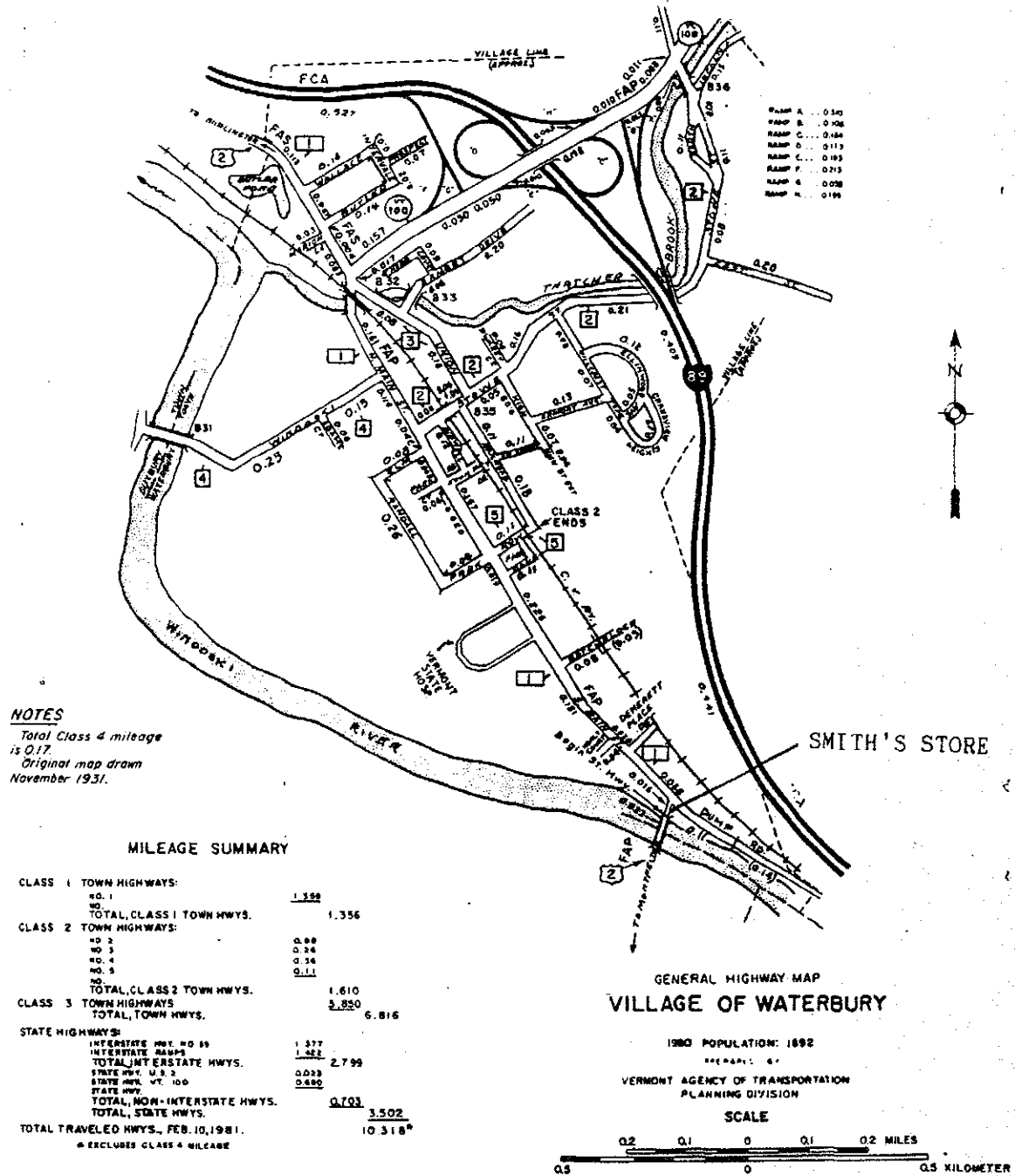
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November, 1990

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SOURCE: Camels Hump Quadrangle, 15' Scale, United States Department of the Interior Geological Survey, Washington 25, D.C. 1951.



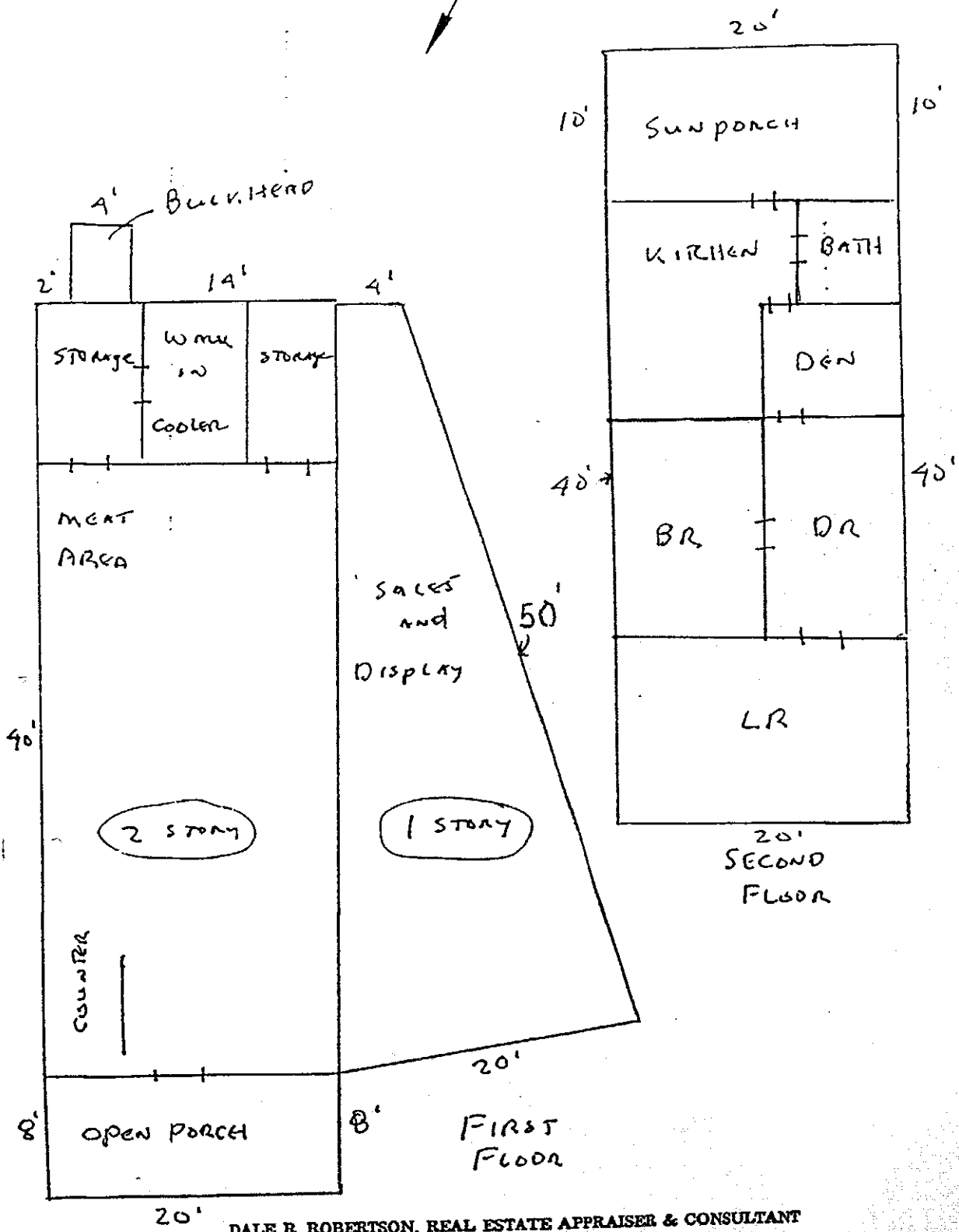
TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT NO. 6

WASHINGTON COUNTY

SOURCE: General Highway Map, Vermont Agency of Transportation, Planning Division, 1980.

SCALE 1" = 10'

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